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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/298,763	04/23/1999	RAHN WOOD		2415

7590 05/13/2003

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[REDACTED] EXAMINER

CHAMPAGNE, DONALD

[REDACTED] ART UNIT

[REDACTED] PAPER NUMBER

3622

DATE MAILED: 05/13/2003

19

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/298,763	WOOD ET AL. <i>ES</i>	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Donald L. Champagne	3622	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 April 2003.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-39 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-39 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 23 April 1999 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
 If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ .
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 7 April 2003 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

3. Claims 1-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. At lines 12-13 of claim 1, and similarly in the other independent claims, "said reward identifier identifying a promotional incentive associated with a separate transaction" is new matter.
4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

5. Claims 1-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. At lines 12-13 of claim 1, and similarly in the other independent claims, "a separate transaction" is indefinite. (Separate from what transaction?)

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102 and 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 USC 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

7. The following is a quotation of 35 USC 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 1-13, 16-25, 32-36 and 38 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as anticipated by Wecker et al.
9. Wecker et al. teaches (independent claims 1, 17, 19, 20 and 38) a computer- implemented method and system for interactively and electronically distributing and redeeming rewards, the method comprising: displaying an advertising image (*banner ad*) on a computer screen of a local computer, the image *offering a free reward*, which reads on including a reward indicator, wherein the local computer is coupled to a computer network, and enabling a user to *click on* (select) the image (col. 6 lines 42-43); at a central location coupled to the computer network, determining the identity of the user (col. 6 lines 49-51 and Fig. 1E); at the central location, allocating free telephone minutes (col. 7 lines 18-21 and col. 8 lines 60-65), which reads on a reward associated with the image, wherein said allocating step includes storing a reward identifier associated with the identity of the user in a database (col. 6 lines 1-3 and Fig. 11), said reward identifier identifying the additional minutes, a promotional incentive associated with the original issue of the phone card, which reads on associated with a separate transaction; and optionally redirecting the local computer to content

associated with the image (col. 1 lines 59-60). Wecker et al. also teaches (independent claim 32) allowing the user to select a reward (col. 2 lines 19-29).

10. Wecker et al. also teaches at the citations given above (and at col. 6 lines 36-37) claims 2-7, 12-13, 16, 18, 21-25 and 33-36. The reference also teaches claims 8-11 (col. 2 lines 19-29).
11. Claims 14-15, 26-31, 37 and 39 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over Wecker et al.
12. Wecker et al. does not teach (claims 26-31) the user device limitations of these claims (ATM, PDA, etc.). However, the user does teach the genus *electronic user station* and three examples similar to the claimed “user computer” limitations (col. 9 lines 53-55). Because the claimed devices were well known and convenient user computers, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to add these user computers to the reference invention.
13. Wecker et al. does not teach (claims 14-15) ID input by mag stripe or smart card. Because this is an inherent and convenient means for input with some of the obvious claimed user computers (e.g. ATM), it would have been inherent, or alternatively obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to input the ID by mag stripe or smart card.
14. Wecker et al. does not teach (claims 37 and 39) means to transfer a reward to another registered user. Because this would be an attractive user feature easily implemented with the reference invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to add means to transfer a reward to another registered user to the teachings of Wecker et al.

Conclusion

15. **COPY of REFERENCES** - Applicant is entitled to receive a copy of every reference cited by the examiner (except at allowance; MPEP 707.05(a)). Applicant should contact the examiner if a completed form PTO-892 is enclosed, but the cited references are not.
16. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Donald L Champagne whose telephone number is 703-308-3331. The

examiner can normally be reached from 6:30 AM to 5 PM ET, Monday to Thursday. The examiner can also be contacted by e-mail at donald.champagne@uspto.gov, and *informal* fax communications (i.e., communications not to be made of record) may be sent directly to the examiner at 703-746-5536.

17. The examiner's supervisor, Eric Stamber, can be reached on 703-305-8469. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9326 for regular official communications and 703-872-9327 for After Final official communications. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-306-5771.
18. **ABANDONMENT** – If examiner cannot by telephone verify applicant's intent to continue prosecution, the application is subject to abandonment six months after mailing of the last Office action. The agent, attorney or applicant point of contact is responsible for assuring that the Office has their telephone number. Agents and attorneys may verify their registration information including telephone number at the Office's web site, www.uspto.gov. At the top of the home page, click on Site Index. Then click on Agent & Attorney Roster in the alphabetic list, and search for your registration by your name or number.



10 May 2003

Donald L. Champagne
Examiner
Art Unit 3622